

Bulletin

November 25, 2013
FSS No. 144

File Transfer Protocol (FTP) December Data Call

OVERVIEW

Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is required to select and implement appropriate system security controls and operational requirements for VA information technology systems as set forth in *VA Directive 6500, Managing Information Security Risk: VA Information Security Program*. One potential area of vulnerability for VA is the use of unsecured File Transfer Protocol (FTP) transmissions. To mitigate this risk, unsecured FTP transmissions will be blocked at the VA gateway starting December 31, 2013. OIS leadership recognizes there are cases in which a legitimate business need may exist for these types of transmissions. Therefore, FTP connections submitted as exceptions and approved by December 6, 2013 will be allowed to continue. The purpose of this bulletin is to provide FSS personnel with the procedure for submitting unsecured FTP connections for a risk-based decision, ensuring continued operations following the December 31 deadline.

GUIDANCE

Information Security Officers (ISOs) should work with facility SDE personnel to identify, update, and complete the FTP connections within your Area of Responsibility (AOR) by December 6, 2013. Additional data fields have been added to the FTP data call template to justify the business need and maintenance of existing FTP connections.

Following update and verification of the connection information, each Region IT Operations Director in conjunction with the Region Information Security Director (RISD) will sign and submit a comprehensive Regional FTP [risk-based decision](#) for VA Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) signature. All un-documented FTP traffic will be blocked at the VA Network gateway beginning December 31, 2013. Signed risk-based decision waivers will exempt approved devices from being disabled by the December 31 deadline.

The default status for all incomplete data submissions (i.e. inappropriate justifications, incomplete data entries) will be to disable the connection.

Action Required:

- **ISOs:**
 - 1) Update and complete the FTP connections within AOR.
 - A. Data previously submitted as part of the May 31 Action Item is available at this [FTP Action Item Site](#)
 - 2) Review previously submitted data to ensure completion.



Office of Information Security
Field Security Service